

INTRA-SERVICE SECTION 7 BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION FORM

Originating Person: _ Pauline Drobney _

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Date: _05/2215/05_

- I. Region: 3
- II. Service Activity (Program): *Refuges and Wildlife*
- III. Pertinent Species and Habitat:

- A. Listed species and/or their critical habitat within the action area:

Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge includes 5,400 acres in Jasper County, Iowa (Figure 1). The Refuge is located approximately 20 miles east of metropolitan Des Moines, and is adjacent to Prairie City on the northeast corner. The Refuge was established in 1991, with an acquisition boundary of 8,600 acres, though current Refuge ownership includes approximately two thirds of this acquisition goal. The ultimate Refuge boundary is generally described by a rectangle three miles east to west, and five miles north to south, though the current boundary is irregularly shaped.

The following is a list of threatened or endangered species, that occur or have occurred within Refuge boundaries, or that are in the initial phases of experimental introduction as a part of the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge's ecological restoration program.

Species:

<i>Indiana bat</i> (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>)	<i>present</i>
<i>Western Prairie Fringed Orchid</i> (<i>Platanthera praeclara</i>)	<i>experimental</i> <i>introduction efforts</i>
<i>Prairie Bush Clover</i> (<i>Lespedeza leptostachya</i>)	<i>experimental</i> <i>introduction efforts</i>

- B. Proposed species and/or proposed critical habitat within the action area
None
- C. Candidate species within the action area:
None

D. Include species/habitat occurrence on a map.

Refer to V. E

IV. Geographic area or station name and action:

Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge proposes to implement the actions outlined in the Refuge's Chronic Wasting Disease Response Plan on Refuge land in Jasper County, Iowa.

V. Location:

A. County and State:

Jasper, Iowa

B. Section, township, and range (or latitude and longitude):

Indiana bat:

Jasper County T-78N, R-21W, Section 15, SW4, NW4 and N2, SW4

Western Fringed Prairie Orchid: experimental reintroduction site:

Jasper County T-78N, R-21W, Section 16, NW4, SE4

Prairie Bush Clover: experimental reintroduction site:

Jasper County T-78N, R-21W, Section 16, S4, S2

D. Distance (miles) and direction to nearest town:

See attached map (Figure 1) showing Neal Smith NWR and Prairie City, Iowa.

E. Species/habitat occurrence:

See attached map (Figure 2) showing capture sites of Indiana Bats, and experimental re introduction sites for Western Prairie Fringed Orchid and Prairie Bush Clover, on Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge.

VI. Description of proposed action (attach additional pages as needed):

Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge proposes to implement actions to assist with management of chronic wasting disease in free-ranging white-tailed deer in Iowa, and captive elk on Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge. Actions would include allowing the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to perform passive surveillance of white-tailed deer and elk on Refuge lands, as well as collection and analysis of samples from deer and elk exhibiting clinical symptoms of CWD on the Refuge. The Refuge will assist in Iowa Department of Natural Resource efforts to depopulate deer through hunter harvest within State established eradication and herd management zones. In compliance with CWD concerns in Iowa, Refuge elk would be eradicated by Service or Iowa Department of Natural Resource sharp shooters. For details the reader is referred to Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge's Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance and Management Plan.

VII. Determination of effects:

- A. Explanation of effects of the action on species and critical habitats in items III. A, B, and C (attach additional pages as needed):

None of the actions proposed would have direct effects on listed species or their critical habitats. No efforts to depopulate deer/elk would be made at this time. If conditions change in the future, consultation would be re-initiated.

- B. Explanation of actions to be implemented to avoid or reduce adverse effects of chronic wasting disease surveillance and management activities:

The actions proposed in the Refuge’s plan would have no effects on listed species, therefore no measures are necessary to avoid or reduce adverse effects.

VIII. Effect determination of chronic wasting disease surveillance and management activities and response requested:

A. Listed species/designated critical habitat:

<u>Determination</u>	<u>Response requested</u>
no effect/no adverse modification (species: <i>Indiana Bat</i> , <i>Western Prairie Fringed Orchid</i> , <i>Prairie Bush Clover</i>)	<u> X </u> Concurrence
may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect species/adversely modify critical habitat	<u> </u> Concurrence
may affect, and is likely to adversely affect species/adversely modify critical habitat (species:)	<u> </u> Concurrence
	<u> </u> Formal Consultation

Signature

Date

[Title/office of supervisor at originating station]

IX. Reviewing ESO Evaluation:

A. Concurrence _____ Nonconcurrence _____

B. Formal consultation required _____

C. Conference required _____

D. Informal conference required _____

E. Remarks (attach additional pages as needed):

Signature

Date

[Title/office of reviewing official]

Figure 2

